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## How Dead Is Dead?

Talk in various Mattoon conversational centers still turns to Francis Gary Powers. Cleared, as he has been by every branch of government which had the slightest suspicion, he is still a controversial subject.

The high rate of pay that Powers received while flying for the CIA pops up quite often during these discussions. We can't feel that the rate of pay was too high when we realize that an airline captain, flying comfortably along in his almost fool-proof jet, draws a similar paycheck and in some cases more.

Probably few Americans really begrudge Powers this sum. Most people figure there ought to be some kind of premium for engaging in hazardous missions. No one argues that the astronauts should be deprived of the half-million dollars they receive as a result of their magazine contract. They deal with

many unknown hazards and should be compensated for it. We are happy for them.

A disturbing thought comes to mind, however. What of the U. S. soldiers, some 4,000 of them, who are currently risking their lives in the jungles of South Vietnam? Are they receiving executive level pay because they take the chance of being shot by snipers? Do they have fat magazine contracts to tell all about fighting in a country infested by Communist troops from the north?

Not at all. They get their service pay and are expected to do their duty. All the same it seems to be worth no additional pay when an ordinary soldier dies for his country at the hands of a sniper in South Vietnam. He is every bit as dead as an astronaut who's capsule fails to function properly, or a U2 pilot shot down over Russia.

It makes one wonder.